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Grechko On Rockets, Submarines, and Military Science

... The Soviet Army and Navy are now up to modern requirements for strength and possess all they need to reliably defend our Fatherland. The Strategic Rocket Troops have now become the main stay of the Soviet Armed Forces. This type of troops can accomplish really unlimited/tasks. Its possibilities have grown greatly now that the arsenal of strategic resources has been replenished with new types of rockets in the past few years. New small rockets, operating on solid fuel from self-propelled launching installations, have been created. They are practically invulnerable to aerial and space reconnaissance and are capable of destroying targets over long distances.

The other branches of our Armed Forces have also changed qualitatively. In addition to operational and tactical rockets, the Ground Troops now possess an enormous tank force and first class artillery for various purposes. The country's modern air defense systems insure the reliable hitting of any aircraft of the enemy and many of his rockets.

The strength of the Air Force has increased as a result of being equipped with supersonic rocket carriers and nuclear weapons. Our rocket-carrying Air Force is now capable of hitting targets without entering the enemy's air defense zone. The reserve of planes of the front, naval, and particularly of the transport air force, has been renewed.

The latest achievements of science and technology are also fully considered in the development of the Navy. There is now no area in the world's oceans where our submarine rocket carrying fleet cannot operate.

The strength of the Soviet Armed Forces lies not only in formidable military technical equipment and in new weapons. Naturally, we are not inclined to play down the significance of these formidable means of warfare, as is done by people who term nuclear weapons a paper tiger. To adopt such a viewpoint in military organization means to greatly jeopardize the cause of the defense of peace. Soviet military science proceeds from the fact that weapons by themselves will not decide the outcome of a war but the people, who are armed with these weapons, handle them masterfully, have strong spirit and strong bodies, and are dedicated to the cause of Communism. This is precisely the people our Armed Forces have. Well educated and morally and physically strong young people are joining the Army and Navy. They master perfectly the complex technical equipment and combat weapons.

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High political consciousness and boundless loyalty to the Leninist party and the Soviet people are inherent in all our servicemen. They are ready to defend the great gains of the October against any aggressors. Communists and Komsomol members make up almost 85 percent of Army and Navy personnel. They constitute a reliable support of the commanders. The Armed Forces personnel live according to the interests and ideas of the Soviet people.

The servicemen commemorate the traditional holiday of our people -- Soviet Army and Navy Day -- with new successes in perfecting rockets, increasing the fire and tactical indexes of the ground forces, expanding the efficiency of air defense personnel, and improving the combat utilization of the Air Forces, as well as the successful sea voyages of submarines and surface vessels...."

"The Army of October"  
Armed Forces Day Article,  
By Mar SU A. GRECHKO  
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